

**ABSTRACT OF THE DISLCOSURE**

Amend the Abstract as indicated in the attached replacement sheet.

Separation of close-boiling or azeotropic mixtures by distillation using ionic liquids

**Abstract**

A process for separating azeotropic or close-boiling mixtures ~~by means through use~~ of an extractive rectification in which an ionic liquid is used as entrainer, wherein a high boiling bottom product is taken off from the column in vapor form via a side offtake.